

**CLAY SHAW WITNESS
BALKS AT HEARING**

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 27 (AP)—Perry R. Russo, the key prosecution witness in the 1969 Clay Shaw trial, refused in Federal court today to repeat testimony that was a basis for the charge that Mr. Shaw conspired to assassinate President Kennedy.

Mr. Russo invoked the Fifth Amendment, guarantee against self-incrimination, refusing to say whether he had seen Mr. Shaw with Lee Harvey Oswald and David W. Ferrie at a party.

District Attorney Jim Garrison had prosecuted Mr. Shaw, alleging that he and the other two plotted the assassination. Mr. Shaw was acquitted and Mr. Garrison lodged new charges against him accusing him of lying to the jury when he said he knew neither Mr. Ferrie nor Oswald.

Oswald, who was slain by Jack L. Ruby two days after the 1963 assassination, was named by the Warren Commission as the assassin. Mr. Ferrie also is dead.

Mr. Russo was called today to a Federal District Court hearing on Mr. Shaw's petition to block prosecution on the new charges, which he says are harassment.

**2 Ships, Welded in Crash,
Break Apart Off Galveston**

GALVESTON, Tex., Jan. 27 (UPI)—Two Venezuelan ships, welded together at the bow by a collision in the Gulf of Mexico, broke apart under tow today, leaving one heavily damaged vessel in danger of sinking.

"Apparently the situation is not critical at this time," said a spokesman in the New Orleans office of the Coast Guard. "We haven't received any distress signals. They haven't called for help or said they are taking on a lot of water."

The relatively undamaged ship, which had been holding the other up, returned to Galveston under her own power.

The two ships collided Monday in a dense fog 88 miles into the Gulf of Mexico.

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